

1 THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide an outline of the Public Participation Process, a summary of the process undertaken to date, and the way forward with respect to public participation as part of the EIA Phase of this project. This Chapter also provides a summary of the key issues that have been raised to date.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Consultation with I&APs forms an integral component of an EIA process and enables *inter alia* directly affected landowners, neighbouring landowners, stakeholders, communities and interested parties to identify the issues and concerns relating to the proposed activity, which they feel should be addressed in the process. The approach to this public participation process, summarised in the Plan of Study for EIA in the Scoping Report, has taken cognisance of the DEAT Guideline on Stakeholder Engagement (2002).

Public participation, as required in terms of the EIA Regulations can, in general, be separated into the following phases:

Initiation of Public Participation Process

During this phase, I&APs are notified of the initiation of the environmental investigation, to enable them to register as I&APs, and raise issues and concerns at the outset of the investigation.

Comment on Draft and Final Reports

During the Scoping and EIA Phases, registered I&APs are provided with an opportunity to comment on draft and final versions of the reports. This is enabled by the lodging of the reports at suitable locations and invitations to public meetings/open houses to discuss the content of the relevant report.

Decision and Appeal period

This is the final phase of the public participation process. Once the competent authority has made their decision and issued an Environmental Decision, the applicant and I&APs are notified of the decision and have the opportunity to appeal to the national Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, within the stipulated timeframes.

Progress with respect to these various stages for the current project is discussed in more detail below. It should be noted that the public participation process developed for this investigation meets the minimum requirements of NEMA.

1.2 SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS TO DATE

1.2.1 Initiation of the public participation process

The approach adopted for the current investigation was to identify as many I&APs as possible initially, through a suite of activities, as follows:

- Placing advertisements in local newspapers (the Gemsbok);
- Placing a notice board at the site;
- Providing written notice and a Background Information Document (BID) to potential I&APs including surrounding landowners, organs of state, ward councillors and relevant authorities; and
- Requesting potential I&APs to recommend other potential I&APs to include on the database (chain referral process).

Thereafter, the remainder of the communications were focused on registered I&APs and on local advertising. Consequently, the initial advertising campaign was broad and thorough and invited the members of the public to register as I&APs.

1.2.2 Public participation related to the Scoping Phase

Public participation undertaken during the Scoping Phase included the following:

- A site notice was erected at the entrance to Struisbult Farm on 24 November 2010;
- The Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available in Prieska (Elizabeth Vermeulen) Public Library, Ietznietz in Copperton and on the Aurecon website from 17 February 2011. All registered I&APs were notified of the availability of the DSR and of a public meeting by means of a letter sent by post and/or e-mail on 17 February 2011. The notification letters also included a copy of the Executive Summary of the DSR in English and Afrikaans.
- A public meeting was held on Thursday, 10 March 2011 to present and discuss the findings of the DSR at the Ietznietz Conference Room, Copperton from 18h00-20h00. Notes of the public meeting were sent to all those who attended on 30 March 2011;
- I&APs had until 40 days, until 30 March 2011, to submit their written comments on the DSR. Cognisance was taken of all comments when compiling the final report, and the comments, together with the project team and proponent's responses thereto, were included in final report in a Comments and Responses Report (CRR) 2.
- The Final Scoping Report (FSR) was made available to the public for review and comment until 1 June 2011 at the same locations as the DSR from 10 May 2011. All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the FSR by means of a letter posted on 10 May 2010. The FSR outlined the full range of potential environmental impacts and feasible project alternatives and how these were derived. Moreover, it included a Plan of Study for EIA, which outlined the proposed approach to the current EIA Phase, including the requisite specialist investigations to be undertaken;

- The FSR and associated Plan of Study for EIA was submitted to DEA on 10 May 2010 and accepted on 15 June 2011. DEA required that, in addition to the proposed specialist studies, a study must be done to determine the land use potential of the area especially with regard to the agricultural potential of the site and the impact of the proposed project on this potential; and
- One comment was received on the FSR and has been included and responded to in **Section 2 and Annexure C** below.

Currently there are 41 I&APs are registered on the project database (see **Section 3** for a list of current I&APs).

1.3 ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED DURING THE SCOPING PHASE

Key issues raised by the public during the Scoping Phase are recorded in CRR 1 and 2 which are included in Annexure E of the FSR. The major issues raised by I&APs can briefly be summarised as follows:

- Aerodrome and aviation;
- Astronomy;
- Biophysical resources;
- Cultural and heritage resources;
- Infrastructure;
- Public participation;
- Project alternatives; and
- Socio-economic aspects.

One comment was received on the Final Scoping Report (included in **Section 2**), noting a correction with regards to the airstrip at Copperton, and this has been responded to in CRR 3 (see **Annexure C**).

1.4 COMMENT ON DRAFT EIAR

The last stage of the Public Participation Process involves the public review of and comment on the Draft EIAR¹. Letters of notification and Summaries of the Draft EIAR were sent to all registered I&APs (refer to **Annexure D** for the current database) on 25 January 2012, informing them of the availability of the report for their review and comment. Registered I&APs were invited to a public meeting being held on 22 February 2011 at Ietznietz Conference Room in Copperton from 17h00 – 19h00 to discuss the findings of the EIAR. Due to low attendance of the public meeting held at the Scoping Phase (three I&APs) I&APs were requested to RSVP by 15 February 2012, and should the number of RSVP's be

¹ A 21 day comment period on the Final EIAR will also be provided, however any comments received will not be included in a CRR and will instead be collated and forwarded directly to DEA.

insufficient the meeting will be cancelled and I&APs will instead be contacted telephonically/electronically to discuss any issues and concerns they may have.

Copies of the Draft EIAR were lodged at the Elizabeth Vermeulen Public Library in Prieska, at letznietz in Copperton and on Aurecon's website (www.aurecongroup.com/ - change "Current Location" to South Africa and follow the public participation links). The public will have until 6 March 2012 to submit written comment on the Draft EIAR. Cognisance will be taken of all comments when compiling the final report, and these comments, together with the study team and Applicant's responses thereto, will be included as an annexure in the final report. Where appropriate, the report will be updated.

Should you wish to comment on the EIAR, comments should be directed to:

AURECON

Att: Louise Corbett

PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

Tel: (021) 526 6027

Fax: (021) 526 9500

Email: louise.corbett@aurecongroup.com

1.5 COMMENT ON THE FINAL EIAR

As is required by the NEMA EIA Regulations, I&APs must be given the opportunity to comment on all draft and final reports. Consequently, once the EIAR has been finalised, it will be made available for a 21 day comment period. The report will be made available in the same locations in which the Draft EIAR was made available, and I&APs will be notified of the availability of the Final EIAR in writing.

1.6 REVIEW AND DECISION PERIOD

The Final EIAR, together with all I&AP comments on the Draft EIAR, will be submitted to DEA for their review and decision-making. DEA must, within 60 days, do one of the following:

- Accept the report;
- Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
- Request amendments to the report; or
- Reject the report if it does not materially comply with regulations.

If the report is accepted, DEA must within 45 days:

- Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or
- Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

Once DEA issues their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision within 12 calendar days of the

Environmental Authorisation having been issued. Should anyone (a member of public, registered I&AP or the Applicant) wish to appeal DEA's decision, a Notice of Intention to Appeal in terms of Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (GN No. 543) in terms of NEMA must be lodged with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days of the decision being issued and the substantive Appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the Notice.

2 COMMENT RECEIVED ON FINAL SCOPING REPORT



ALKANTPAN

a Division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd.
(Reg. No.1990/003885/07)

MEMO

To: AURECON

From: KG Woolf

Your reference: DEA 12/12/20/2099

My reference:

Date: 2011-05-19

Enquiry: KG Woolf

INPUTS TO FINAL SCOPING REPORT: No: 5357A

The final sentence of Par. 1.2.4 headed "Aviation Act, No 74 of 1962" refers. Your report makes the statement that "*It is proposed that this airstrip is moved so that light aircraft can continue to make use of this strip*".

As I stated at the public meeting held at Ietznietz conference centre at Copperton on the 10th March 2011 (last sentence of Par 8 of the those minutes contained in Annexure F to your report), Alkantpan is not aware of other users making use of the airstrip which is under our ownership and control.

The airstrip was designed to carry military aircraft up to Hercules C130 size which could land and deliver/uplift weapons and ammunition for the SANDF and other clients. Aircraft of that size are definitely not classed as **light aircraft** and the perception could arise that this airstrip is of a light aircraft carrying construction, which it is not.

Please update your report to reflect this.

Thanking you,

KG WOOLF
MANAGER ELECTRICAL SERVICES

3 INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES: DRAFT E.I.A.R (20/12/11)

Organisation	Name
105/Remainder	K de Jager
Aero Club of South Africa	K Storie
Agri-Prieska	P Vos
Agri-Prieska Stockfarmers	HG Human
Alkantpan Test Range	L Klaas
Alkantpan Test Range	G van der Westhuizen
Alkantpan Test Range	B van Heerden
Alkantpan Test Range	K Woolf
Birdlife South Africa	M Anderson
Civil Aviation Authorities	L Stroh
DAFF: Land Use & Soil Management	A Collett
Department of Agriculture (Northern Cape)	L Manong
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development	WVD Mothibi
Department of Energy (Northern Cape): Regional Energy Director	SP Mokuele
Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental Management	W Hector
Department of Environmental Affairs: Integrated Environmental Management	N Sebei
Department of Land Reform	P Mangate
Department of Science and Technology	T Seekoe
Department of Transport	RC Barlow
DWA: Deputy Director Lower Orange WMA	E Kubayi
Endangered Wildlife Trust	J Smallie
Eskom Megawatt Park	K Leask
Farm no. 106/4	S van Zyl
Gyro SA	E Torr
Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa	R Damonse
Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa	M Mangnall
Mulilo Renewable Energy	J Callum
Nelspoortjie Farm (No. 103/5)	P Fourie
Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation	A Yaphi
Northern Cape Provincial Heritage (Boswa ya Kapa Bokone)	A Hall
Northern Cape Provincial Heritage (Boswa ya Kapa Bokone)	J Sinthumule
Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	S Diokpala
Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	The Municipal Manager
Repli Investments No 27 Pty Ltd	B Deventer
Repli Investments No 27 Pty Ltd	H Hamman
Request Trust	M Meyer
Rode and Associates (Pty) Ltd	B Rode
Sivest	L Koch
Sivest	K Tucker

SiyaThemba Local Municipality	A Faro
South African Heritage Resources Agency	M Galimberti
SQS	Z Langyel
Square Kilometer Array (SKA)	A Tiplady
Telkom	Shaw
The Municipal Manager: SiyaThemba Local Municipality	G Bessies
WESSA: Northern Cape c/o McGregor Museum	S Erasmus
Witfontein Farm (No. 103/7 & 266)	F van Wyk
	T Anderson
	JJ Bernard
	J Braid
	Van Wyk Broers